

VISIT...

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Your Turn

Write a brief character sketch from a first-person point of view. You may base your character on somebody you know, or choose a character from a book, movie, or TV show. Choose words that express the character's personality and feelings. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- ☐ **Ideas and Content:** Did I choose a **good topic** and narrow the focus to include the most interesting details about my character?
- ☒ **Organization:** Does the sequence of ideas make sense?
- ☒ **Voice:** Does the first-person point of view express my character's feelings and thoughts?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Do the words reveal my character's personality?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Do the sentences match the way the character would speak?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Do my subjects and verbs agree? Did I check my spelling?

THE RIGHT ★ ★ ★ TO ★ ★ ★ VOTE





Talk About It

Why should people vote?
Why do you think it took
women so long to win the
vote in the United States?



Find out more about
women's suffrage at
www.macmillanmh.com



Vocabulary

representative postpone
colonel submit
attorney legislature
qualify satisfactory



Dictionary

A **Dictionary** entry includes information about pronunciation in parentheses near the definition. The word is separated into syllables with symbols to show how to sound it out. For example, *colonel* is pronounced (kûr'nl). To figure out the symbols, look for the pronunciation key in the front of the dictionary.

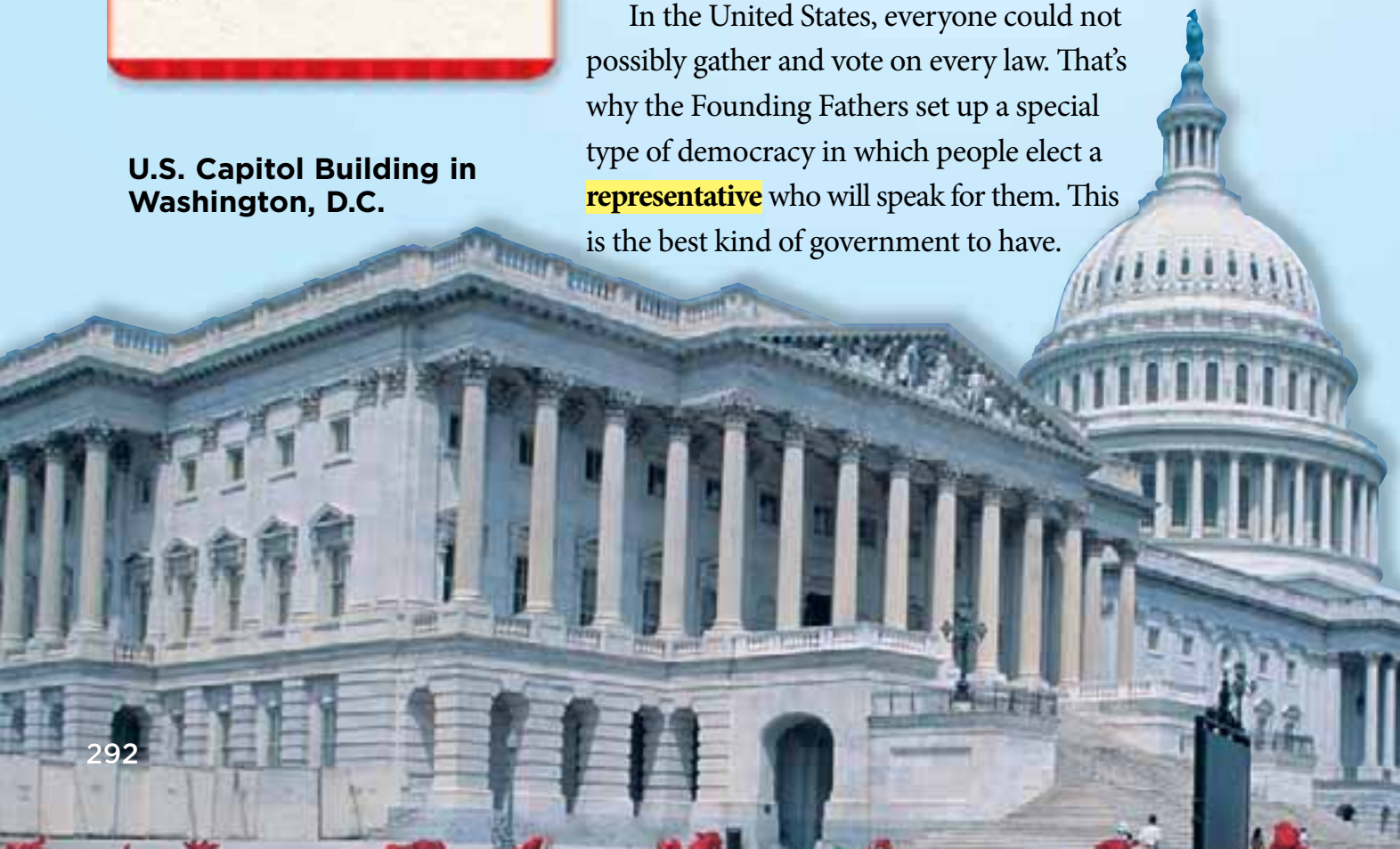
U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

YOUR
**OTE**
YOUR VOICE

by Wyatt Thatcher

The word *democracy* comes from two Greek words which, when combined, mean “the people rule.” The belief behind any democracy is that the people make the laws.

In the United States, everyone could not possibly gather and vote on every law. That’s why the Founding Fathers set up a special type of democracy in which people elect a **representative** who will speak for them. This is the best kind of government to have.



Each person plays an important part in a representative democracy. One of their main responsibilities is to vote during an election. Everyone, from a teacher to an army **colonel**, has the right to vote as long as they are citizens.

Before the 1970s you had to be 21 years old to vote. Some people thought the age should be lowered to 18 years old, so an **attorney** challenged the law in court. Lawyers argued their case all the way to the Supreme Court. Finally, the debate was settled by Congress who created a new law that lowered the voting age to 18 years old for all elections.

Unfortunately, in recent years fewer and fewer Americans are voting. As the twenty-first century began, only one-third of those who **qualify** and are eligible to vote were registered to do so. Younger voters have the worst turnout of any age group.

People who are old enough to vote should not **postpone** signing up or they might find they will need to **submit** to laws they don't agree with. In Washington, D.C., and every state capital, the **legislature** decides about future laws. These laws might not be **satisfactory** for your needs. By voting, your voice can be heard in our governments. In this way, YOU can make a difference.



Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate Fact and Opinion

A Fact and Opinion Chart helps you decide which statements can be proven to be true (facts) and which are somebody's personal feelings or beliefs (opinions). Use your Fact and Opinion Chart as you reread "Your Vote, Your Voice" to evaluate what is fact and what is opinion in the selection.

Fact	Opinion

Comprehension

Genre

A **Biography** tells the story of a person's life and is written by another person.



Evaluate

Fact and Opinion

As you read, use your Fact and Opinion Chart.

Fact	Opinion

Read to Find Out

What opinions does the author give about Esther Morris?

WHEN ESTHER MORRIS HEADED WEST



BY CONNIE NORDHIEM WOOLDRIDGE
ILLUSTRATED BY JACQUELINE ROGERS





Her name was Esther Mae Hobart McQuigg Slack Morris, and in 1869 she headed out to South Pass City in the Wyoming Territory. She was fifty-five years old.

South Pass City was a place that sprouted out of nearly nothing at the mention of the word “gold.” The space around it was large and wide open. That was a good thing because Mrs. Morris was a large woman with wide-open ideas that needed more room than could be had in New York or Illinois, where she’d come from. You see, she thought a woman should be able to vote and hold office, the same as a man.

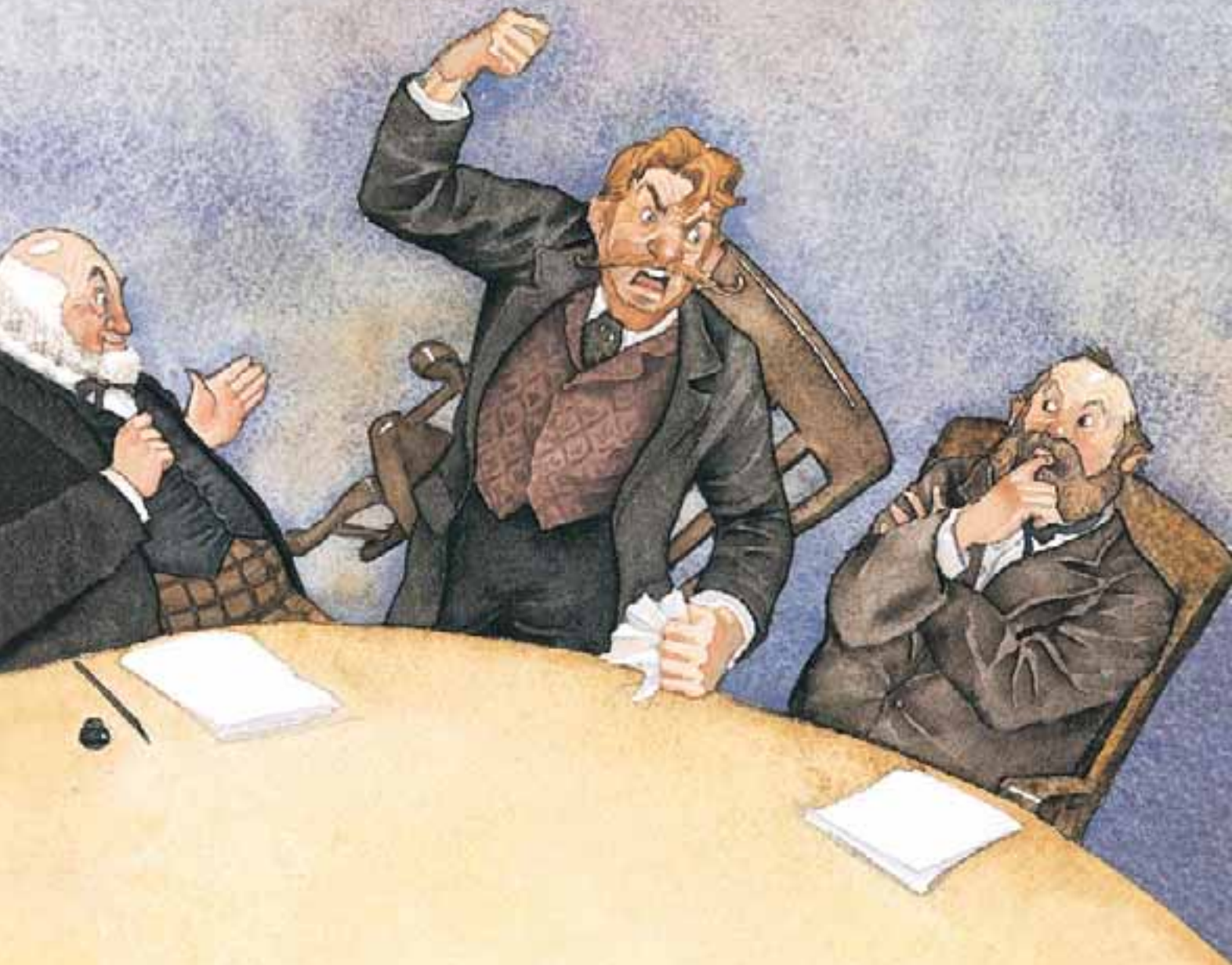


Fact and Opinion

Find one example of fact and one of opinion on this page.

After she got herself settled in South Pass City, she paid a call on a man who had already argued hard for the same new and crazy-sounding idea she was bringing in from the East. That man was **Colonel** William Bright, and he thought women's being able to vote and hold office made all kinds of sense. Since he was an elected member of the Wyoming Territory Council, he proposed An Act to Grant to the Women of the Wyoming Territory the Right of Suffrage and to Hold Office.





Colonel Bright was opposed by a feisty young lawyer named Benjamin Sheeks, another **representative** from South Pass City, who thought the idea was hogwash. His plan was to keep the thing from ever being voted on at all. He made a motion to **postpone** discussion until July Fourth, which any fool knew was a holiday.



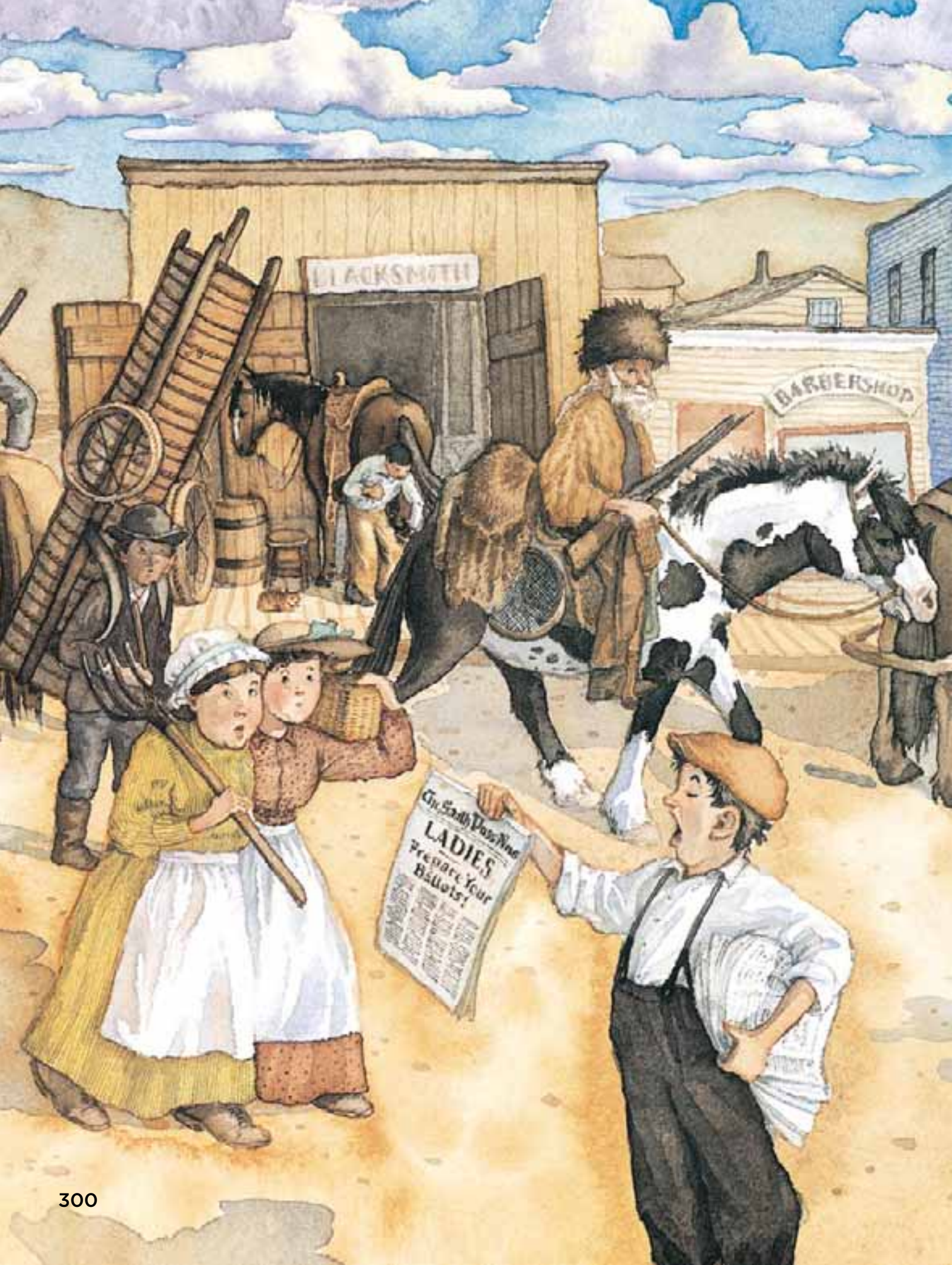
But Mr. Ben Sheeks lost the day, and the heretofore unheard-of up and happened. In the closing months of 1869, a **legislature** full of men voted to give the women of Wyoming rights no other women in the world had: They could vote and hold office the same as men.

“The Deed Is Done,” read one newspaper. “Ladies, Prepare Your Ballots!” read another. “Reckless Copperheads!” read a third, referring to the legislators who’d voted in such a fool thing. Back in South Pass City, the justice of the peace resigned.



Fact and Opinion

One newspaper had the headline “Reckless Copperheads!” Is this a fact or an opinion? How do you know?



Now that women had the right to vote, it was time to prove they could hold office just as well. Mrs. Morris had no hankering for power or highfalutin titles. But she knew an idea—even one voted into law—wasn't worth a hill of beans as long as it stayed words on a page. Her boys were grown and it was time to step away from her cooking and gardening for a spell and do a thing that might help women coming along later on. So Mrs. Morris applied for the position of South Pass City Justice of the Peace. The whole Wyoming Territory let out a gasp. But the only fellow who opposed her for the position failed to **qualify**. So there she was: a judge. And that made her the first female in the United States to hold a public office.



A test of her ability came early on from the very man she was replacing. He refused to hand over the court docket. He didn't think Mrs. Morris should have it. He didn't think any woman should have it.

"You can keep your dirty docket," Mrs. Morris told him, and got herself a nice clean one.

Then there was the time young Ben Sheeks, back to lawyering, argued a case in her court. The opposing **attorney** was having a heyday picking at every little thing and getting Mr. Sheeks's dander up real good. After he'd had about all he could take, Mr. Sheeks escorted his opponent out of the room when it didn't appear the fellow was of a mind to go.

When Mr. Sheeks came back into the courtroom, he knew he'd gone and done it. His views on the woman question were no secret and here he'd misbehaved in front of the first woman judge in the country. The situation called for humbleness and that was not a thing that came easy to Ben Sheeks.

"Your honor," he said, "I apologize for my behavior and I **submit** to any punishment you might inflict. I was in contempt."

Mrs. Morris was not educated in the fine points of the law. But she'd raised three sons in rough-and-tumble places, and she knew a thing or two about common-sense fairness. "Your behavior was justified, Mr. Sheeks," was all she said. And that was an end to it.

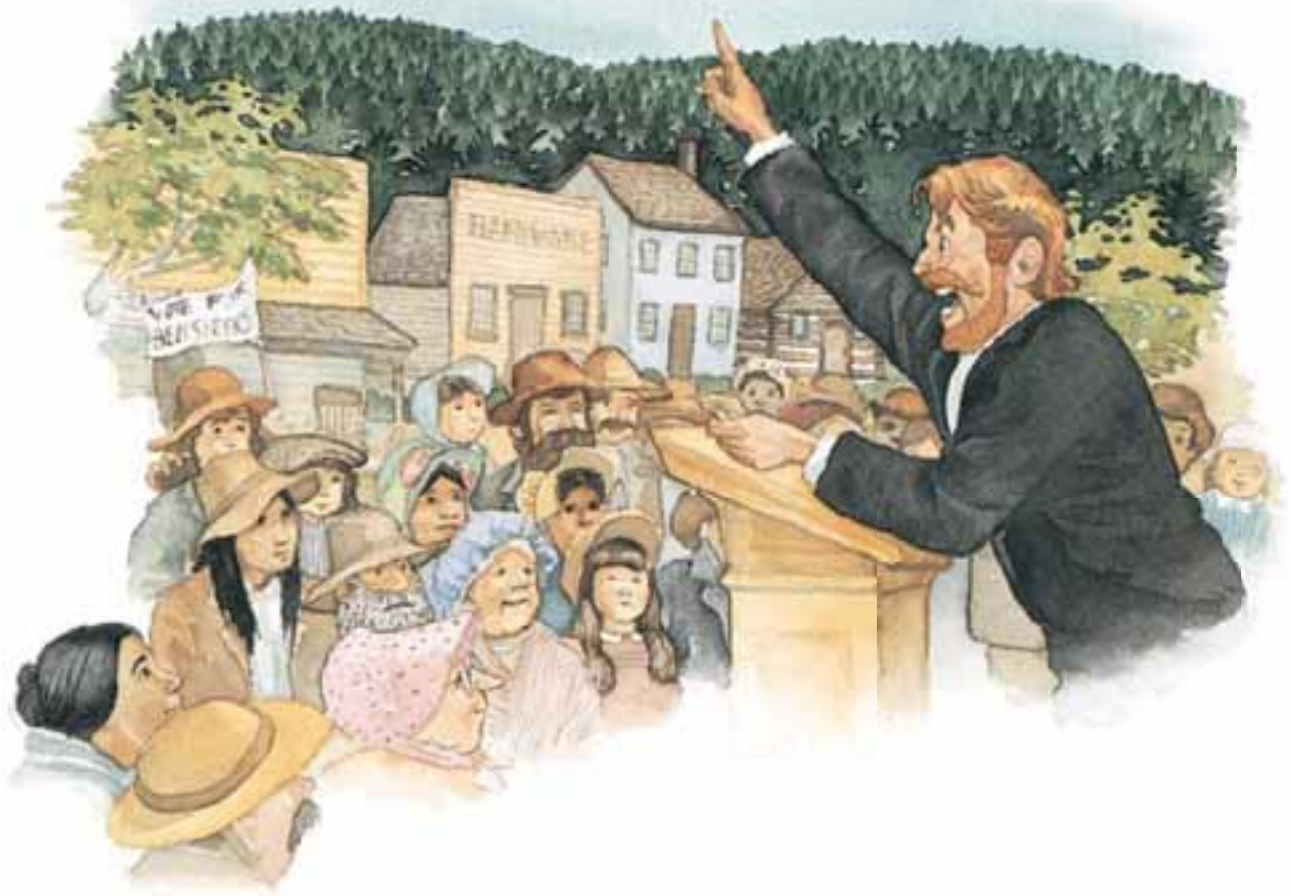
Along with seven other South Pass City women, the judge cast her vote for the very first time on September 6, 1870. She later claimed she had her personal physician by her side, and he determined the operation of voting had no ill effects on a woman's health.

Her term ended the following month. "My position as justice of the peace was a test to woman's ability to hold public office," she said, "and I feel that my work has been **satisfactory**, although I have often regretted I was

not better qualified to fill the position. Like all pioneers, I have labored more in faith and hope." When she stepped down from the bench, Mrs. Morris handed the court docket over to the same judge who wouldn't turn his loose eight months before.

The gold fever that had brought three thousand people to South Pass City died down. Colonel Bright moved to Denver and then finished out his days in Washington, D.C.



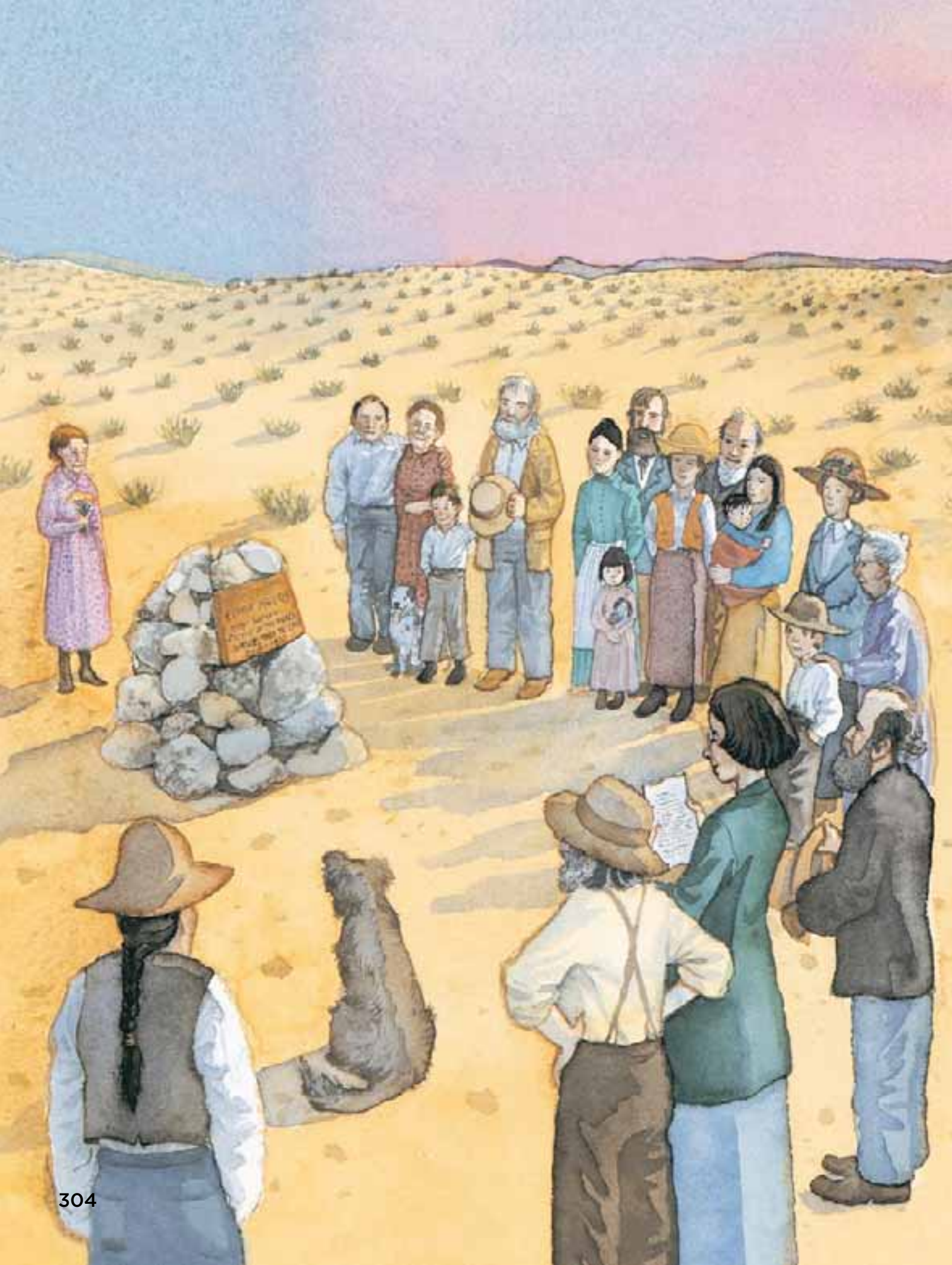


Ben Sheeks headed for Salt Lake City and then west to Washington State. Somewhere along the way he took up the crazy notion that women should be able to vote and hold office the same as men.

Mrs. Morris moved to Laramie, Wyoming, and then on to Cheyenne. She was close to ninety when she died.

In the summer of 1920, a professor from the University of Wyoming made her way out to what was left of South Pass City. She got herself a wheelbarrow and took a stone from the broken-down home of William Bright, who once had the courage to propose a crazy new idea.

She took another stone from the home of Esther Morris, who had the courage to show how the idea looked in the living of it. She took a third from the home of Ben Sheeks, who hated the idea, saw how it looked in the living, and had the courage to change his way of thinking.



The professor piled the stones into a monument and invited the remaining inhabitants of South Pass City to a dedication ceremony. As the sun sank behind the mountains, nineteen human beings, two dogs, and a cow remembered for a moment that once in time a thing bigger and better than gold had happened here.

In Washington, D.C., later that same summer of 1920, the Secretary of State announced a change to the United States Constitution. He said women in all states were now allowed to vote, the same as men.

It wasn't a new idea for the state of Wyoming. The folks back East just took a little longer getting to it is all.



HEADING WEST WITH CONNIE NORDHIELM WOOLDRIDGE AND JACQUELINE ROGERS

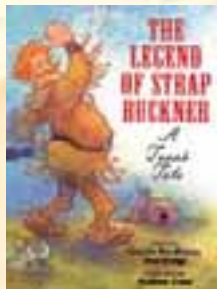
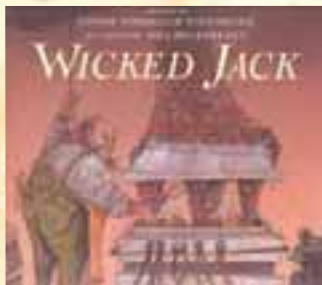


Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge tried a lot of things before she started writing. She studied Greek culture and archaeology in Greece, worked as a flight attendant, and taught school in Korea. But when Connie started writing, she knew she found the right job. She loves writing stories that tell children what life was like before they were born and how much life has changed.

Jacqueline Rogers grew up as the youngest child in a family of artists. While growing up she followed her mom to her sculpture class and her sisters to their drawing classes. When Jacqueline started drawing on her own, she focused on horses. Today she illustrates children's books because it allows her to be most creative. "It pushes me and scares me and that makes my work more exciting," she says.



Other books by Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge: *Wicked Jack* and *The Legend of Strap Buckner*



Author's Purpose

Does Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge admire Esther Morris? What details from the story indicate the author's opinion of her subject?



Find out more about Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge and Jacqueline Rogers at www.macmillanmh.com



Comprehension Check



Summarize

Use your Fact and Opinion Chart to help you write a summary of *When Esther Morris Headed West*. Opinions you have about events in the selection should not appear in your summary.

Fact	Opinion

Think and Compare



1. Identify two facts in the story about Esther Morris's term as a judge. Then identify two opinions that she had about herself. Do you agree or disagree with Morris's opinions? Explain your answer. **Evaluate: Fact and Opinion**
2. Reread page 305. What is the "thing bigger and better than gold" that happened? Explain why the author compares this event to gold. **Analyze**
3. What would you have done to help women get the right to vote? What would you have said to the Wyoming **legislature**? **Evaluate**
4. Explain why it takes courage to change people's way of thinking. **Synthesize**
5. Reread "Your Vote, Your Voice" on pages 292–293. Compare and contrast women's desire to vote in Wyoming in 1869 with the decrease in voting in recent years. Find evidence from both selections to support your answer. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Social Studies

Genre

Textbooks present facts and ideas about nonfiction topics.

Text Feature

A **Time Line** is a diagram of several events arranged in the order in which they took place. A time line helps to organize information in an easy, visual way.

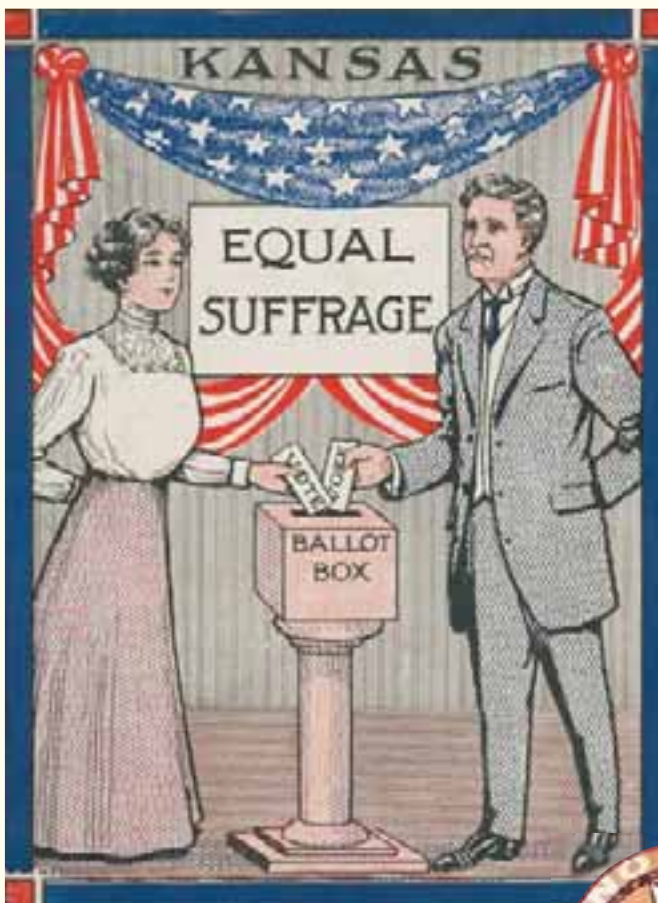
Content Vocabulary

suffrage

amendment

polling

media



Suffrage for Women

by Maria Chan

After more than 50 years of struggle and hard work, women finally won the right to vote in national elections in 1920. The fight for **suffrage**, or the right to vote, began with the Seneca Falls Convention in New York state in 1848. As voting rights pioneer Susan B. Anthony argued, suffrage was “the pivotal right, the one that underlies all other rights.” Suffragist leaders gained strength in 1870 when an **amendment** to the U.S. Constitution granted African American men the right to vote. Why not award the vote to all citizens?



In 1872 Anthony and a group of women marched into a **polling** place in Rochester, New York, and cast their votes in a presidential election. The women were arrested and fined. Finally, in 1878 after six more years of protests, a women's suffrage amendment was introduced in Congress.

Congress did not pass the women's suffrage amendment in 1878. Still, the amendment was reintroduced in every session of Congress for the next 40 years. Suffragist leaders, such as Carrie Chapman Catt, traveled across the country giving speeches and organizing workers. Catt led a "suffrage army" of 1 million volunteers. She used the **media** to spread her arguments. Newspapers and magazines were able to reach a large amount of people.

In 1920 these efforts paid off. Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment, which guarantees every adult woman the right to vote. On August 26, 1920, the states approved this amendment. Here is what the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution says:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged [limited] by the United States or by any state on account of sex." After a half-century of struggle, women finally won the right to have their voices heard in governing this country.



Biography

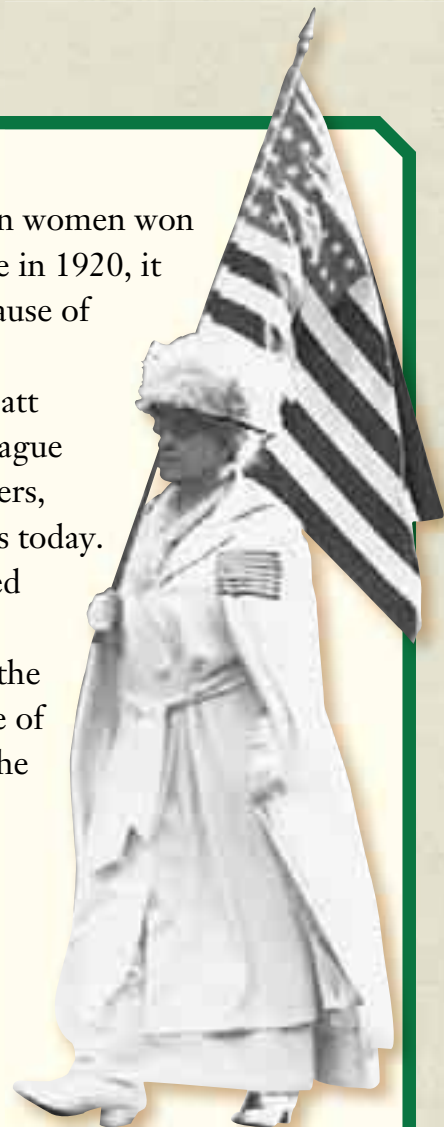
Carrie Chapman Catt was born Carrie Lane in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1859. After college she became a teacher in Mason City, Iowa, and then the superintendent of schools in 1883. Around that time Catt became involved in fighting for the right to vote.

Over time Catt supervised thousands of volunteers and gave hundreds of speeches in favor of women's right to vote. She was elected president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association from 1900 to 1904, and again from 1915 to 1920.

Catt worked against great odds but held firm to her beliefs. "There will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it has his or her own voice in government."

When American women won the right to vote in 1920, it was largely because of Catt's work.

That year Catt founded the League of Women Voters, which still exists today. She also founded the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War in 1925. She died in 1947.



Reading a Time Line

One way to review major historical events is to look at them on a time line. Here are some of the major events of the women's suffrage movement:

The Life of Carrie Chapman Catt

1859

Carrie Chapman Catt is born Carrie Lane in Ripon, Wisconsin

1883

Catt becomes superintendent of schools in Mason City, Iowa

1900

Catt is president of National American Women Suffrage Association

1920

Catt founds League of Women Voters

1860

1875

1890

1905

1920

1861-1865

Civil War

1876

Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone

1914

World War I begins, the Panama Canal opens

1918

World War I ends

Life Around the World



Connect and Compare



1. Use the time line on page 310 to find out how old Carrie Chapman Catt was when she founded the League of Women Voters? **Reading a Time Line**
2. How did Carrie Chapman Catt help women win the vote? **Analyze**
3. Compare *When Esther Morris Headed West* with this article about women's suffrage. How are the two selections similar? How are they different? **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Social Studies Activity

Research another suffragist leader, such as Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, or Lucy Stone. Write a summary of her life. Include a time line that shows the main events in the life of the person you choose.



Find out more about suffrage at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Word Choice

Word choice means choosing the right words to help readers understand what you mean. Strong adjectives and action verbs make the writing more specific.

I used the verb "stride" because it packs a lot of meaning.

I chose the words "super cool" to show my enthusiasm about voting.

Write a Poem

Vote Your Way

by Brian P.

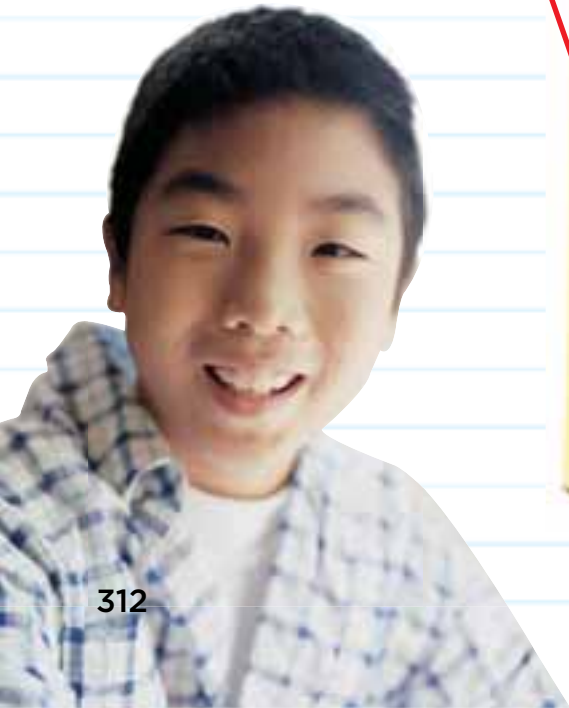
At eighteen you're allowed to vote.
It keeps our country strong.

Stride to the polls with notes you wrote
On issues right and wrong.

You choose the candidates you like.
It's only up to you.

With your vote you make a strike
For right, and good, and true.

Don't waste the chance to vote your way.
This right is super cool.
Learn all you can; then have your say.
If you don't, you're just a fool!



Your Turn

People often write poems to celebrate ideas, people, or events. Choose a person, event, or topic from American history to honor with a poem that you write. Your poem does not have to rhyme. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)

Writer's Checklist

- ☒ **Ideas and Content:** Is the main idea of my poem apparent to the reader?
- ☒ **Organization:** Does each line and stanza of my poem follow in a logical order?
- ☒ **Voice:** Can the reader tell how strongly I feel about this topic?
- ☒ **Word Choice:** Did I use action verbs whenever possible to strengthen my **word choice**?
- ☒ **Sentence Fluency:** Do the lines of poetry have a certain rhythm even if they don't rhyme?
- ☒ **Conventions:** Is every word in my poem spelled correctly?